

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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DIZZY DEAN WELLS, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 23-cv-1019-pp

LAW OFFICES OF SCHIRO & ZARZYNSKI, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED  
WITHOUT PREPAYING FILING FEE (DKT. NO. 3)**

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Plaintiff Dizzy Dean Wells, Jr., who is incarcerated at Oshkosh Correctional Institution and representing himself, filed a complaint, dkt. no. 1, along with a motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee, dkt. no. 3. Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), an incarcerated person may not bring a civil lawsuit or appeal a civil judgment without prepaying the filing fee:

if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.

28 U.S.C. §1915(g). Strikes include any lawsuit dismissed on any of the three enumerated grounds both before and after the enactment of the PLRA. Evans v. Ill. Dep't of Corrs., 150 F.3d 810, 811 (7th Cir. 1998) (citing Abdul-Wadood v. Nathan, 91 F.3d 1023, 1025 (7th Cir. 1996)).

Court records show that the plaintiff has accumulated three strikes: (1) Wells v. Miller, Case No. 16-cv-1680-PP, dismissed on May 8, 2018 for failure to state a claim; (2) Wells v. Schwarz, Case No. 98-cv-653-RTR, dismissed on August 28, 1998 for failure to state a claim; and (3) Wells v. Schwarz, Case No. 98-cv-938-RTR, dismissed on October 30, 1998 for failure to state a claim. Because the plaintiff previously has filed at least three lawsuits that were dismissed as frivolous, malicious or for failure to state a claim, the court must deny his motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee unless he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.

To meet the imminent danger requirement of 28 U.S.C. §1915(g), a plaintiff must allege a physical injury that is imminent or occurring at the time he files the complaint, and the threat or prison condition causing the physical injury must be real and proximate. Ciarpaglini v. Saini, 352 F.3d 328, 330 (7th Cir. 2003) (citing Lewis v. Sullivan, 279 F.3d 526, 529 (7th Cir. 2002)). “Allegations of past harm do not suffice” to show imminent danger. Id. at 330 (citing Heimermann v. Litscher, 337 F.3d 781, 782 (7th Cir. 2003)). Generally, courts “deny leave to proceed [without prepaying filing fee] when a prisoner’s claims of imminent danger are conclusory or ridiculous.” Id. at 331 (citing Heimerman, 337 F.3d at 782).

The complaint alleges that the defendants, who represented the plaintiff at various stages of criminal proceedings in Milwaukee County Case Number

15-CF-5118,<sup>1</sup> failed to adequately represent him. Dkt. No. 1 at 2-4. The plaintiff alleges that the defendants violated his constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel, and he seeks compensatory and punitive damages. Id. at 7. The plaintiff's allegations in this case do not meet the imminent danger requirement because he does not allege that he is currently at risk of serious physical injury. Thus, the court will deny the plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee.

If the plaintiff wants to proceed with this case, he must pay the full civil filing fee of \$402 (the sum of the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee) by the deadline set below. Newlin v. Helman, 123 F.3d 429, 433-34 (7th Cir. 1997), rev'd on other grounds by Walker v. O'Brien, 216 F.3d 626 (7th Cir. 2000) and Lee v. Clinton, 209 F.3d 1025 (7th Cir. 2000); 7th Circuit Rule 3(b). The court will dismiss this case if the plaintiff does not pay the full filing fee by the end of the day on **September 14, 2023**. This means that the plaintiff must pay the fee in time for the court to receive it by the end of the day on September 14, 2023. If the court receives the full filing fee by the end of the day on September 14, 2023, the court will screen the complaint under 28 U.S.C. §1915A.

The court **DENIES** the plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee. Dkt. No. 3.

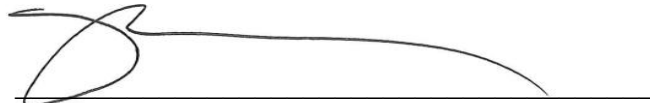
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<sup>1</sup> According to online court records, on December 7, 2016, the plaintiff was found guilty of violating Wis. Stat. §§939.621(1)(b)&(2) and 973.055(1), following a jury trial. Wisconsin v. Wells, Milwaukee County Case Number 2015CF5118. See [wcca.wicourts.gov](http://wcca.wicourts.gov) (last visited Aug. 24, 2023).

The court **ORDERS** that the plaintiff must send to the Clerk of Court the sum of \$402 as the full filing fee in this case by the end of the day on **September 14, 2023**. The payment must clearly identify the case name and number assigned to this case. The court **ORDERS** that if it has not received the full filing fee by the end of the day on September 14, 2023, the court will dismiss the case for the plaintiff's failure to comply with this order.

Dated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 24th day of August, 2023.

**BY THE COURT:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Pepper', written over a horizontal line.

**HON. PAMELA PEPPER**  
**Chief United States District Judge**